



Applied Chemistry, Creative Solutions

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June 12, 1998

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JUN 15 1998

Mary A. Gade, Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P. O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Re: **Sauget Area I**

Dear Ms. Gade:

Following our telephone call of March 3, receipt of your March 20, 1998 letter, and receipt of a draft Sauget Area I Sites R1/FS and Draft consent decree, I understand representatives of IEPA and Solutia have had several conversations attempting to reach agreement on a set of actions that would lead to further remedial actions in Sauget Area I. Today, agreement has not been reached. As we endeavor to move forward and IEPA continues to express flexibility within the boundaries of the NCP and an enforceable consent decree, I remain optimistic that, with our involvement, progress can be achieved.

Therefore, Solutia respectfully declines your offer as defined in your letter of March 20 and as we have come to understand the prerequisites to that proposal through subsequent discussions with your Agency. Nevertheless, as evidenced by the magnitude (estimated at \$15 Million - \$20 Million) of the voluntary proposals made to IEPA to date and combined with Solutia's commitment to enter into enforceable agreements with the Agency incorporating these voluntary proposals, Solutia has demonstrated its commitment to do its responsible, fair share of the work to address environmental issues within the proposed Site on a priority basis. Solutia remains willing, with strong business performance continuing, to commit to performance of a voluntary study and removal of risk/remediation of Sector B. We remain in agreement to perform this work consistent with the NCP and the subject of a negotiated, enforceable Consent Decree. And we are prepared to work with IEPA on the definition

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on the definition
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of an RI/FS plan for the balance of Area 1 and identification of PRPs. Execution of the RI/FS by all PRPs would follow.

Solutia continues to believe that this voluntary approach, combined with an enforceable agreement, is the most cost effective and environmentally responsible means for the Agency and Solutia to begin in a priority manner to equitably address the environmental issues surrounding Sauge Sites Area I. I would recommend we meet on our proposal at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pierle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael A. Pierle
Vice President, Environment, Safety & Health

cc: D. Michael Light